



(Photo by Sgt. Robert Yde, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Don't worry, I do this all the time

Staff Sgt. Raymond Mainor, a medic for 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, helps an Iraqi army soldier insert an intravenous needle during a combat life-saver class Jan. 23 in Baghdad. See story page 4.

Troops deliver food, water to residents on Haifa Street

By Sgt. Robert Yde
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - Residents of Haifa Street have grown accustomed to violence living in one of the Iraqi capital's most dangerous areas. The impoverished area has been the scene of several battles between coalition forces and insurgents and is infamous for the sectarian violence that occurs there on a daily basis.

Snipers routinely operate out of the many high-rise buildings that line the road causing many of the locals to live like prisoners in their own homes.

"It is very violent and we're sick of it.

We're afraid for our families" one Iraqi said describing the situation.

Although they have been operating here for a couple of months, Soldiers from Troop C, 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment from the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd "Black Jack" Brigade Combat Team have recently taken over control of this notorious street and its surrounding areas.

"The biggest thing we'd like to do is get a good, stable measure of security in conjunction with the Iraqi forces, so those people can feel safe," explained Troop C commander, Capt. John Gilliam of his goals for the Haifa Street area. "They can go to the market, their children can go to

school, and they can just live without the fear of someone knocking on their door and threatening to kill them."

According to Gilliam the first step toward accomplishing this goal is gaining the trust of the locals in order to build a relationship so they can work to solve their problems together. With this idea in mind, two of Troop C's first missions onto Haifa St. were to provide food, water and medical assistance to the residents there Jan. 28 and 29.

Working with the Red Crescent, an agency similar to the Red Cross, Soldiers

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Humanitarian mission helps residents of Haifa

Haifa

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escorted the items from a mosque in the Al Mansour district of the city Jan. 29. Immediately after arriving to the distribution point on Haifa Street, people began to flock to the much-needed supplies.

"I think it's the first time, really, anybody's done any humanitarian missions on Haifa Street in a long time, especially U.S. forces. Most of the focus up here has been on dealing with the violence," Gilliam, a native of Charlottesville, Va. said. "The past few days has been one of the first real times that a lot of people who have been unable to leave their house or who have felt afraid to go out on the streets have been able to come out and get some food and water and some much needed medical supplies."

As people carried off boxes of water and bags of rice, bread and canned vegetables they stopped to voice their con-

cerns to the Soldiers. "The majority of the people have been very excited and very appreciative of receiving food, but they still have security issues on Haifa Street," Gilliam explained. "There are still people who like to do sniper attacks and small-arms attacks, but we're doing our best right now to kill or capture those people and restore some security down here."

Gilliam's assessment of the area quickly proved true as the Soldiers were forced to move the distribution sight after they began receiving indirect fire about 30 minutes after setting up.

"They were walking the mortars in fairly close to us, to the point that we had to react and push a section down to try to identify the shooters," Gilliam said. "Then we started taking some small-arms fire from the same area, so we downloaded as much food as we could at that location and then we took the rest to another location."

After moving down a few blocks and reestablishing a new distribution point the trucks were quickly downloaded with assistance from Iraqi Army troops in the area. As people carried supplies by the arm-full back to their homes, they were obviously thankful to the Soldiers and the Red Crescent.

He said humanitarian missions like this one will continue.

"I think these past few days have been a good first step toward getting a good working relationship with the sheiks and the local leaders," he said.




"They've seen that we're here to help them and that our sole purpose is to provide them security and bring some stability to them. It makes you feel like your making a difference," Gilliam said.



(Photo by Sgt. Robert Yde, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

A medic attached to Troop C, 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, tends to an elderly man on Baghdad's Haifa Street during a humanitarian mission there Jan. 29.



Iraq 3-Day Weather Report			
	Today	Tomorrow	Saturday
High: 60 Low: 44	High: 62 Low: 50	High: 57 Low: 44	

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Coalition, Iraqi forces open Joint Security Station

By **Spc. Alexis Harrison**
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Two days before its grand opening celebration, the Joint Security Station was already a functional epicenter for security operations in one of the most dangerous parts of the capital.

Al Doura continues to be a focus for coalition forces trying to maintain a peace in the neighborhood. The 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, has been manning the station alongside its Iraqi Army and police counterparts in hopes of breathing a refreshing breath of peaceful air back into the notorious district.

The security center brings all elements of the American and Iraqi security together in one location. It is home to national police, Iraqi police, Iraqi Army and American forces.

For the Soldiers of Company A, 2-12 Infantry, duty at the station isn't necessarily what they had been used to. In recent weeks, the main focus of their efforts has been securing the Doura market area during its cleanup and revamping.

Along with the arduous task of securing the market, the new task of keeping the

JSS manned has proved to be only a small challenge for the troops from Fort Carson, Colo.

The company's top noncommissioned officer, 1st Sgt. Doug Maddi, said it might not be the most glamorous mission his troops have been assigned to, but it shows the agile and multi-faceted approach they take to the fight against anti-Iraqi forces.

He said while his troops work closely with the Iraqi Army and police he hopes it shows the community what teamwork can accomplish.

"I think that now that they see that we're working together, it's obviously going to benefit the entire effort between Iraqi security forces and the coalition," Maddi said. "When people see us together with the ISF, it's a good thing, and as the word spreads through the community that this is here, we'll start to get calls on the tip lines."

Maddi said that several calls have already come into the station from anonymous citizens.

"As this grows, people will call on the Iraqi policemen more and they'll let them know something's happening. I anticipate the phone to be ringing off the hook very soon. This is a major step in bringing the community back together toward peace."



(Photo by Spc. Alexis Harrison, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

An Infantry man from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, scans the perimeter at the Joint Security Station in Baghdad's Al Doura district Jan 24. The "Warriors" from Ft. Carson, Colo., recently started operations at the station with Iraqi Army, Iraqi police and national police forces.

Baghdad in Brief

Military Channel wants to be 'Voice Of Troops'

BAGHDAD - On Valentine's Day, the cable Military Channel will begin airing videos provided by Soldiers from the field, the channel's parent company, Discovery Channel announced Feb. 5.

"The Military Channel at its essence is the voice of the troops," Discovery CEO David Zaslav told USA Today. "We want to see the war through their eyes. That will help us understand what's going on there."

Zaslav said 'Operation V-Day' will devote 24 ad-free hours to clips of Soldiers greeting their loved ones beginning Feb. 14.

But that's not the only thing the Military Channel is looking to air, according to the USA Today report.

"It's not limited to feel-good stuff," Bill Smee, Discovery's vice president for current affairs told USA Today.

"Some of these guys are recording on patrol with cameras in tow, and stuff breaks out. I don't want to over-promise firefights, but you may see the aftermath of an improvised explosive device."

The cable channel is encouraging Soldiers to send them their footage to air.

Recently, a full-page ad ran in the Mideast Edition of Stars & Stripes targeting amateur military video camera operators to submit their products.

It just launched Combat Zone, in which soldiers discuss recent battles in Iraq and elsewhere.

A show in development will focus on pilots discussing their dogfights. Another will tell Soldiers' life stories.

To find out more about submitting video clips to the Military Channel, go to www.military.discovery.com.

Editor's note: The basis of this article was a report by USA Today's David Lieberman published Feb. 5.

Iraqi troops focused on life-saving skills

By Sgt. Robert Yde
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HONOR, Iraq - As the only medic on his Military Transition Team, Staff Sgt. Raymond Mainor has no problem staying busy.

Along with providing day-to-day care for the MiTT's Soldiers and interpreters, the medic from the 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, is also responsible for advising and assisting Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division with their medical needs.

"My job is to help improve the standard of medical care of my IA counterparts," Mainor explained.

"This is anything from basic sick call to doing emergency medical care on the battlefield. - anything to help conserve their fighting strength," he said.

To this end, Mainor recently shifted the focus of his attention from the IA medics to the regular Iraqi troops during a

combat life-saver course he conducted here Jan. 23.

CLS is a common course for U.S. Soldiers that focuses on honing basic medical skills necessary to treat a casualty until trained medical personnel can take over.

"This is just like we do in the United States," Mainor said of the class. "We're taking the regular Soldier who's going to be out with his buddy and giving him some basics where he can treat himself or whoever's in his vehicle."

Mainor said he wanted the training to be as similar as possible to the training U.S. Soldiers go through, and before getting into any hands-on exercises he focused on some of the basics of medical care with the Iraqi troops.

A variety of topics, to include controlling bleeding, airway management, the treatment of different types of burns and splinting a fracture were discussed during the classroom portion of the training.

According to Mainor, the class of about 20 Iraqis appeared interested and eager to learn all that they could. "They're very receptive," Mainor said. "This was

supposed to be a class of only eight, but it kind of grew. They stop by and sit and listen, which is good, I don't mind that, I'll teach anybody that's willing to learn," he said.

"We have to know this class because we go on a lot of missions. If somebody gets injured you have to know how to treat them," said Faisal Ghazee Hadi, one of the students in the class.

After completing the classroom portion of the training, Iraqi troops moved onto what is probably known as the most notorious part of CLS - inserting an intravenous needle.

The Iraqis gathered around Mainor, as he went through the entire process of preparing and inserting an IV step-by-step, before attempting the procedure on each other.

For most of these troops, it was the first time they had done anything like this, and while some were obviously a little nervous, with Mainor's guidance, they each successfully inserted and started an IV.

"We learned a lot from this class," Rafid Mahmood Mohammed said, adding, that the class gave him more confidence in his ability to provide emergency medical care. He said after going through the training, he is confident he would be able to apply what he learned on the battlefield.

Mainor said he will continue to conduct CLS training sessions as he works toward his goal of having at least one CLS-qualified troop in every vehicle that leaves the FOB.

"We're trying to make the first responder close at hand," he explained, "so if things go down, somebody's right there."



(Photo by Sgt. Robert Yde, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Iraqi Army troops gather around Staff Sgt. Raymond Mainor, a medic for 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, during combat life-saver training at Forward Operating Base Honor Jan. 23 in Baghdad.



Warrior-poet puts heart into mission in Iraq

By Sgt. 1st Class Rick Emert
1st ACB Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq - He looks at the battle in Iraq through a warrior's eyes, but this Apache pilot and deputy brigade commander feels the strife of its people with the heart of a poet.

Although he spends nearly every moment of his days involved in the planning of decisive missions against the insurgency, Lt. Col. Charles Dalcourt, deputy commander for the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st ACB said that for him, this is more than a mission.

His heart is in the investment American Soldiers make toward the future of Iraq.

"The Soldier that's here is not just here in word and deed," Dalcourt said. "You really have some of us with our heart in this nation. Most, I would say, that are over here serving have a heart for this nation to do well."

The sectarian violence and lack of unity among the people of Iraq has inspired a poem that Dalcourt began a couple of years ago and finished on this deployment. It calls for a leader to come forward to help Iraqis find the way ahead.

In the poem, called 'Terror or Peace,' Dalcourt says it will take "one born and bred in Baghdad's bosom to create a path - terror or peace."

Although his poetry covers a wide range of topics like Black History and Women's History months, it is his poem Terror or Peace that has inspired other Soldiers here who have read it.

"He was able to capture the complexity and differences that will challenge the Iraqis as they move forward," said Capt. Wallace Lindsey, 1st ACB battle captain, a native of Kempner, Texas. Lindsey added that the poem gave him a "view of the world through a new lens, one previously unseen."



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rick Emert, 1st ACB Public Affairs)

Lt. Col. Charles Dalcourt, 1st ACB, is a Soldier-poet who wrote a poem about Iraq called 'Terror or Peace.'

Another Soldier, Capt. DaSean Jones, fire support officer for 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, called Dalcourt's poem "very thought provoking" and said it "promotes a lot of thought and is very encouraging, although it engages in the low and high points" of Iraq.

Dalcourt said his wish is not for Iraq to become a carbon copy of the United States.

"It doesn't have to look like the United States," he said. "It doesn't have to be our law of democracy, but that's where freedom comes from, from some form of democracy. I think it's someone born and bred, like I said [in the poem], in the bosom of this place. Someone that rises out of the sand here has to take charge and own it. Grab the legacy and bring it forward, use that as a catapult to just do great things."

Dalcourt began writing poetry before he was inspired to write Terror or Peace.

"I think Americans would be surprised that we are a cross section of society with all the different interests and so forth," Dalcourt said. "As you really study this profession, I think there are plenty of others out there that just write essays and stories, even though you don't walk into the motor pool looking for authors. I enjoy absolutely the business - especially being an operator, the warfighting aspect of it, leading Soldiers and doing those things. As you study it ... the passion comes. It's just natural that I write."

TELEVISION



	8:00p.m.	8:30p.m.	9:00p.m.	9:30p.m.	10:00p.m.	10:30p.m.	11:00p.m.
AFN sports	NFL Live	NBA Fastbreak	College Gamenight	The Best Damn Sports Show Period		ESPNNews	The Sports List
AFN prime ATLANTIC	Headline News	ATS/ Regional News	The Office	Two and a Half Men	Command Information	House	
AFN news	MSNBC Live		MSNBC Live		Fox News Live		StudioB